GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:36
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2001
ATTACK ON UNION MINISTERS IN J & K
MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether terrorists had attacked Union Minister during his visit to Kashmir on 23.6.2001 by throwing grenade on his helicopter and the Minister had a narrow escape;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether there has been large scale increase in the activities of terrorists in Kashmir during the last few months as it was the second incident of attack on a Union Minister; and

(d) if so, the action being taken by the Union Government to curb such activities and the number of persons arrested so far in this connection indicating the full details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No.36 FOR ANSWE
24TH JULY, 2001.

(a) & (b): On 23.6.2001, terrorists fired rockets at the helicopter, which was carrying Shri Omar Farooq Abdullah, Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, just as it was about to land at Sogam, Distt. Kupwara.Fortunately, the Minister was unhurt. The helicopter was immediately diverted to District Police lines, Kupwara from where the entourage returned to Srinagar.

(c): Monthwise figures of terrorist incidents and terrorism related deaths from January to June 2001 are indicated below:-

Month	Incidents	Civilians Killed	Security Forces Killed	Militants Killed
January	370	74	38	78
February	286	77	40	87
March	299	66	62	98
April	367	79	53	118
May	411	88	40	159
June	372	58	45	217

(d): The Government has adopted a comprehensive approach to curb terrorist activities and check infiltration in J&K which includes, inter-alia, strengthening the border management; appropriate security actions in the hinterland; gearing up the intelligence machinery; providing protection for vital installations as well as for remote, scattered and minority populations; improved technology, weapons, equipment for security forces; greater functional integration through a framework of Operations Groups and Intelligence Groups at the UHQ and lower levels, etc.

As regards security of VVIPs, the concerned State Governments are alerted whenever inputs in this regard are received and they provide appropriate security to VIPs on the basis of periodic threat assessments.In J&K, the State Government takes necessary action to provide such security to VVIPs while in Delhi the requisite security is provided by Delhi Police.

The State Government has informed that, during the period from 1st Jan` 01 to 15th July 01, 56 persons were arrested in connection

with terrorism related incidents.